Vol. 64, No. 43

Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. Home of Air Dominance Training

#### Oct. 28, 2005

#### In brief

#### **Daylight saving time**

Don't forget to turn clocks back one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday morning. Also, it is recommended to use daylight saving time as a reminder to check all smoke detectors.

#### **Trick-or-treating**

Trick-or-treating hours will be 5-8 p.m. Monday. The 325th Security Forces is still looking for volunteers for the Pumpkin Patrol. For more information, call 283-2558.

#### Track closure

The running tracks and fitness pads at the Tyndall Fitness Center and the NCO Academy, as well as the fitness pad behind the Health and Wellness Center, will be closed Nov. 1-14 for resurfacing. For more information, call 1st Lt. David Dawson at 283-3067.

#### What's inside



NCO Academy graduates ... PAGE 7



Tyndall medics learn to 'operate' in hostile areas ... PAGES 12-13



#### Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

#### Gotcha!

Tech. Sgt. James Zelrick, 325th Security Forces Squadron flight chief, uses a radar gun to check the speed of passing vehicles on Mississippi Avenue recently. The speed limit on Mississippi Avenue from behind the Commissary to the Auto Hobby Shop is 15 mph. There are also two stop signs posted near the base track.

# General Rogers takes command of 19th AF

MICHAEL BRIGGS

12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

#### RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE,

**Texas** – Maj. Gen. Marc Rogers replaced Maj. Gen. Edward Ellis as 19th Air Force commander during a change of command ceremony Oct. 21.

Gen. William Looney, commander of Air Education and Training Command, presided over the ceremony in front of the base operations facility here.

General Ellis led 19th Air Force since June 2004. He leaves Randolph to retire in his hometown of Montgomery, Ala., and will conclude his career with a retirement ceremony there at Maxwell AFB in November.

General Rogers comes to 19th Air Force from Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, where he served as AFMC Transformation Director. As 19th AF commander, he is responsible for managing all flying training in

General Looney said General Rogers is

the right person to continue to move the led combat operations in Iraq and Bosnia. 19th AF forward.

"Today we bring another superstar to command 19th Air Force," General Looney said at the ceremony. "General 'Buck' Rogers has everything we need to continue the upward vector of 19th Air Force.

"As an aviator in the tactical arena, he's done it all – air-to-air, air-to-ground. He understands what is needed and what it takes to develop the aviators who not only will triumph in combat, but will survive in combat."

He also understands balancing the challenges of the mission and taking care of the families in his charge, General Looney said.

General Rogers is a command pilot with more than 2,300 flying hours, including more than 180 combat hours, in the F-15, F-16 and F-117. He has served as an electronic combat pilot, aggressor pilot, instructor pilot, operations officer, squadron commander, operations group commander and 49th Fighter Wing commander at Holloman AFB, N.M. He has

In his remarks after taking command, General Rogers said he was thrilled to join the AETC team.

"From everything we've seen since we arrived at Randolph Air Force Base, this is a fired up team and the kind we like being on," he said of his family's first impressions.

In addressing the troops assembled, General Rogers spoke of the significance of the 19th Air Force mission.

"We couldn't have a more important mission at this time than training America's Airmen," he said. "It's perhaps more important now than at any time in our history, because we're at war and our Air Force is undergoing change.

"It's up to this command to provide the Airmen who are properly trained in the expeditionary culture and trained to face unorthodox enemies around the world. I could not be more proud to join the team, and I pledge you 100-percent support as you execute the mission."

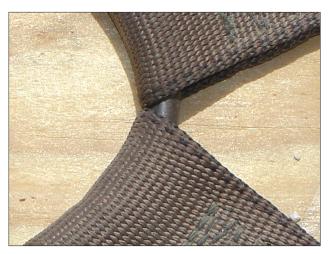
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#### Clownin' around

Pepper the Clown pins a balloon parrot on Kami Kremin, dressed as a pirate, Oct. 21 at the Youth Center Fall Festival. Approximately 500 children were able to enjoy many activities at the festival, including pony rides and rock wall climbing, as well as face painting and carnival games. For more information on Youth Center activities, call 283-4366.

# Identify this



Can you identify this object? If so, send an e-mail to editor@tyndall.af.mil with "Identify This" in the subject line. Three correct entries will be chosen at random and drawn from a hat to select the final winner. The prize can be claimed at the **Public Affairs office.** 

The winner for the Oct. 21 "Identify This" is David Wallace, Air Force Civil **Engineer Support Agency** contractor. He correctly guessed that it was a grip on a weightlifting bar. Come and claim your prize!

# ON THE **STREET**

### What are you going to be for Halloween?



"I'm going to be a pirate, because I wanted to try something different this year."



cause I like scary costumes."

CYNTHIA NIZIOL 14 years old



"My mom said I'm going to be

a witch."

JALIN RODGERS 9 years old

KUYLOR COOPER 10 years old



"I'm going to be bones because it's scary."

NATHANIEL JEFFERSON 6 years old

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2nd Lt. William Powell de	eputy chief, internal information
Staff Sqt. Benjamin Rojek	editor

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The deadline for article submissions to the Gulf Defender is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129 or mailed to: 325 FW/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425 or e-mailed to editor@tyndall.af.mil. Public affairs staff members edit all material for accuracy, brevity, clarity, conformity to regulations and journalistic style. The delivery of the Gulf Defender to Tyndall base housing sections is provided by the Panama City News Herald.

For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.

# Commentary

# Teamwork allows AFCESA to respond to disaster

COL. GUS ELLIOTT JR.

Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency commander

As an Air Force unit commander, nothing makes me prouder than to see our organization respond to meet a crisis situation. Such was the case when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in late August. Along with the rest of the Tyndall community, AFCESA had the opportunity to help our neighbors in distress. As a civil engineer agency, we had additional specialized skills to offer.

The Civil Engineer Maintenance, Inspection and Repair Team was one of the first outside agencies called upon to support Keesler AFB, Miss. Two days after the storm hit, our CEMIRT technicians were on their way to Keesler in a nine-vehicle convoy, carrying much needed electrical supplies and five large generators.

For five days, our technicians provided the only wide-scale electrical service in the storm-damaged area. They did the necessary rewiring to hook up generators and began delivering power to key buildings. Facilities they brought back online included student dorms, billeting rooms for emergency workers and displaced base personnel, the second and third floors of the hospital and a dining facility.

Their behind-the-scenes efforts meant that the 6,000 people sheltered at Keesler, who emerged to find that their base and their homes were destroyed, were able to have lodging and hot meals so recovery efforts could get underway. In addition, two large 750 kilowatt generators were flown from CEMIRT at Travis AFB, Calif., to the Louis Armstrong International Airport in New Orleans to help their rescue support functions.

A three-person Airfield Pavements Evalu-

ation team was also sent to assess Keesler's airfield pavements once the flood waters subsided. They tested the structural capacity of the pavements, checked for subsurface degradation and certified that the airfield was capable of resuming full operations.

The Air Force Contract Augmentation Program is a unique contingency contract capability that we manage. It allows us to quickly provide support during natural disasters, humanitarian efforts and operations other than war.

How quick is it? Within hours of the storm's passing, our AFCAP program managers contracted out more than \$17 million in services to help Keesler begin recovering from the storm. Initial tasks included emergency actions to save structures, including installing temporary roofing, debris removal, removing damaged sheet rock, and drying out facilities and fogging for mold. Katrina-related task orders under the AFCAP contract, which was also used to provide food service at Louis Armstrong International Airport, have now swelled to more than \$39 million.

After the storm passed, Keesler began the arduous task of assessing damage and estimating what it would take to restore the base to its former operating strength. AFCESA's engineers played a major role in that assessment and were also tasked to come up with the final "Fix Keesler" dollar figure that would be submitted to Congress for restoration funding. We were given just two and a half days to come up with the answer.

Now that Keesler has transitioned from the relief stage to the recovery stage, AFCESA is awarding and overseeing contracts to help rebuild the base. To provide



Courtesy photo

Members of the Civil Engineer Maintenance, Inspection and Repair Team install a generator at Keesler AFB, Miss., as part of relief efforts following Hurricane Katrina.

overarching support, we set up facilities and hired personnel for creation of a Keesler AFB Program Management Office, to coordinate the efforts of multiple government agencies involved in the reconstruction.

In the closing days of September, our program managers and contracting staff worked together to award more than \$31 million in sustainment, restoration and modernization cost-plus contracts to repair over 30 facilities, including buildings and infrastructure. Their task was complicated by the fact that they were obligating fiscal year 2005 dollars as the year-end clock was rapidly running out. AFCESA is also executing a \$25 million contract to repair the hospital at Keesler.

Finally, in addition to providing standard

engineering support to a variety of customers, AFCESA has matrixed one of its civil engineers to the Joint Housing Solutions Focus Group for New Orleans and southern Louisiana. He is assisting with infrastructure issues and materials procurement for reconstruction and has also coordinated the assignment of more than 200 reservists to help with cleanup, temporary housing and quality assurance evaluation work.

As a tenant organization on Tyndall, AFCESA has unique engineer capabilities and powerful contracts to make a difference when disaster strikes. AFCESA pulled together as a team in response to Hurricane Katrina, and their actions made this commander proud.

# Action Line Call 283-2255 BRIG. GEN. JACK EGGINTON 325th Fighter Wing commander

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers.

If you're not satisfied with the response or

you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For fraud, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the 325th Fighter Wing Inspector General's Office, 283-4646.

Calls concerning energy abuse should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.

Below are more phone numbers that help you in resolving any issues with a base agency.

Commissary	283-4825
Pass and I.D.	283-4191
ledical and Dental	283-7515
/IEO	283-2739

MPF	283-2276
SFS Desk Sgt.	283-2254
Services	283-2501
_egal	283-4681
Housing	283-2036
CDC	283-4747
Ning Safety	283-4231
Area Defense Counsel	283-2911
Finance	283-4117
Civil Engineer	283-4949
Civilian Personnel	283-3203
Base Information	283-1113

Thank you for helping me improve Tyndall and I look forward to hearing from you.

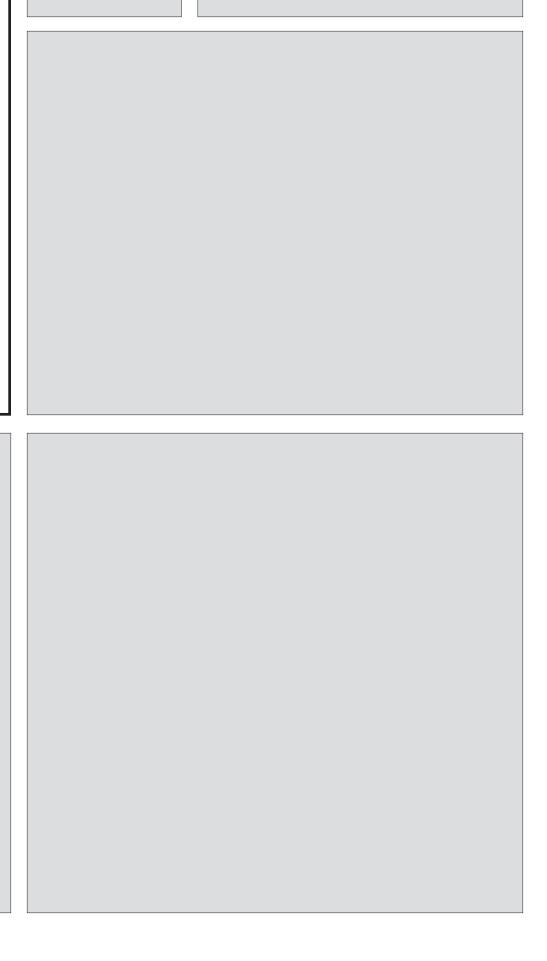
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Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

Airman 1st Class Jesus Ortiz, 2nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, inspects the brakes and wiring of an F-15 Eagle Tuesday as part of a basic post flight/preflight inspection. Airman Ortiz is the Golden Bolt winner for the month of September. He found the Golden Bolt in a grounding point on the runway in front of Hangar 2.



# Mental health counseling not career ending

FORCE SUSTAINMENT

STAFF SGT. PATRICK BROWN

45th Space Wing Public Affairs

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFPN) - Retired Senior Master Sgt. Patrick McCathern was literally seconds away from death. He hung by a noose tied to his bathroom door, ready to die.

As he felt his last few gasping breaths fill his lungs, he noticed the wagging tail and puppy-dog eyes of his pet, Dunkin, looking up at him. That was enough to make him untie the rope from around his

The incident led Mr. McCathern to seek help, which allowed him to dig himself out of a nearly yearlong depression. He credits the professional help he received at Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland AFB, Texas, for helping him pull himself out of what he calls an "unimaginable hell."

"I would have rather been shot and endure that pain than endure the mental

Since September 2001, Mr. McCathern has been a spokesperson for the National Institute of Mental Health's "Real Men. Real Depression." campaign. He has also spoken at Department of Defense-level conferences, and his public service announcements have been on television and radio.

Army as a new equipment training instructor at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. He shared his insights and experiences with two full houses Sept. 23 at the base the-

He discussed depression and suicide

- two topics in which he is a subjectmatter expert. His aim was to encourage thoughts of suicide to seek help.

Mr. McCathern said people must realize the long-standing stigma that mental health counseling is detrimental to military advancement is not true. He said seeking counseling doesn't mean the end of a career.

"One of the big myths is, as soon as you seek any kind of counseling, your ca-Today Mr. McCathern works for the reer starts going downhill. Your (security)

> clearance is taken away and you never get it back. That's wrong," he said.

After seeking counseling, the Air Force did suspend his security clearance, but only for two weeks. He said it didn't take him

long to get back his top secret clearance.

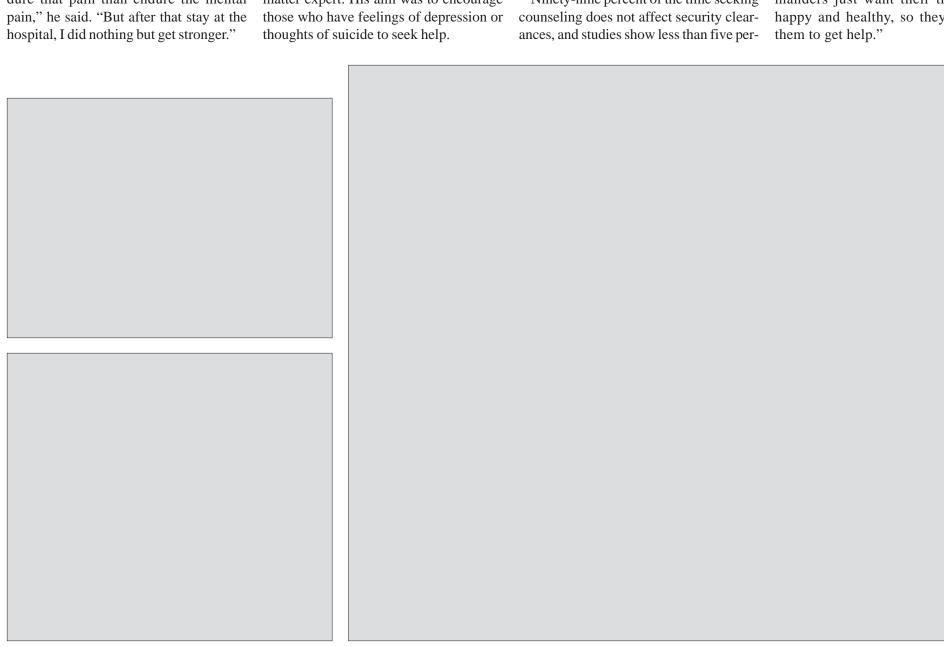
Ninety-nine percent of the time seeking

cent of people are negatively affected by seeking treatment, said Maj. (Dr.) Dawn Kessler-Walker, Tyndall Life Skills Support Center commander.

"If the person still has good judgment, their clearance will remain intact, and coming in and getting help shows good judgment," she said.

More than likely, careers of those seeking help will improve after receiving treatment because their work performance improves, Dr. Kessler-Walker said.

"Our job here at Life Skills is to get people better and get them back to work," she said. "If you are motivated to make positive changes, your experience in counseling will be a very good one, and your career will be better because of it. People are more open minded about receiving therapy today, and supervisors, co-workers, first sergeants and commanders just want their troops to be happy and healthy, so they encourage



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## New EEO process brings quick resolutions

In fiscal year 2001, Congress established the opportunity to develop and test alternate civilian Equal Employment Opportunity complaint processes with the National Defense Authorization Act.

DOD subsequently approved the Air Force as one of three DOD agencies eligible to conduct these tests. The Air Force's new process, Compressed Orderly Rapid Equitable process, became available to some civilians Oct. 1, and will soon become available to others located on 31 installations included in the initial phase of the test.

"The Congressionally approved CORE program, in my opinion, will substantially lessen the current time utilized to administratively process EEO complaints," said Thomas Chatman, 325th Fighter Wing EEO program director.

The CORE process starts at the installation level with the EEO Office which manages the local EEO complaints program for the installation commander. The EEO Office staff will explain both the tra-

ditional and CORE process during the informal interview. The potential complainant will be provided the option of selecting which process (traditional or CORE) they want to use when they file a formal complaint. If they select the CORE process, the first step is an offer of alternative dispute resolution provided by the Dispute Resolution Division of the Air Force General Counsel's office.

If ADR is unsuccessful or if the complainant does not choose to participate, the pilot program then combines two time-consuming steps of the traditional EEO process into one significantly shorter step called a CORE fact-finding conference. The CFC will be conducted by DOD's Office of Complaint Investigations.

The traditional EEO complaint process can involve both an investigation and an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission hearing followed by an Air Force decision. Together these steps could take at least 360 days. Under the CORE process, ADR could result in a win-

win situation, and if that does not work, the process is still shortened to as little as 127 days.

At any point in the CORE process, civilians may opt out and return to a comparable point in the traditional EEO process. However, if

they stay in the CORE process, they are guaranteed a fact-finding conference, which allows the complainant to question witnesses.

"Under CORE, the investigative and hearing phases of the administrative process has been essentially combined, with employees still retaining all previous appeal rights to the EEOC," said Mr. Chatman. "EEOC is the final authority for federal sector complaints alleging unlawful discrimination."

The new process will be limited to 31 bases for the first six months. The CORE process will be tested for two years, with an option to extend for an additional year. In the future, employees interested in utilizing this streamlined EEO process should obtain further information about how CORE works from the Tyndall AFB EEO office.

The effectiveness of the CORE process and pilot programs developed by other agencies will be evaluated by the DOD, the Government Accountability Office and the EEOC. After the programs are tested, they will be evaluated for their effectiveness.

"CORE provides a very systematic way to expedite an otherwise convoluted complaint processing program, without infringing on the statutory or regulatory rights of the employee or applicant," said Mr. Chatman.

(Courtesy of the Tyndall Equal Employment Opportunity Office)

# Halloween safety tips

Halloween is an exciting time of year for kids, and everyone can make sure they have a safe holiday with the following tips -

#### Parents and adults should:

- Supervise outings for children under age 12.
- Prepare homes for trick-or-treaters by clearing porches, lawns and sidewalks, and by placing jack-o-lanterns away from doorways and landings.
  - Inspect all candy before children eat it.
  - Ensure the safety of pedestrian trick-or-treaters.
  - Watch for children in the street and on medians.
  - Exit driveways and alleyways carefully.
- Have children get out of cars on the curb side, not on the traffic side.

#### Children should:

- Go only to well-lit houses and remain on porches rather than entering houses.
- Travel in small groups and be accompanied by an adult.
  - Know their home and emergency numbers.
- Bring treats home before eating them so parents can inspect them.
- Use costume knives and swords that are flexible, not rigid or sharp.

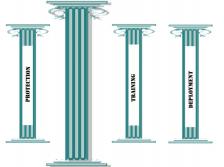
#### When walking in neighborhoods:

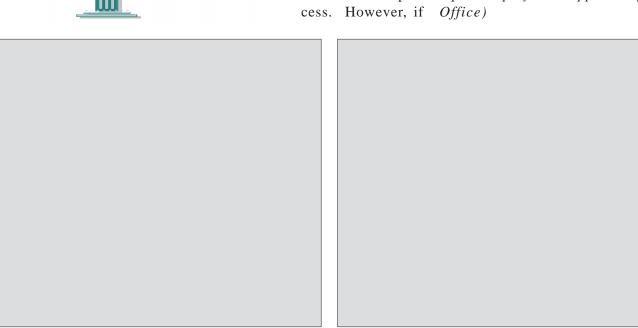
- Use flashlights and stay on sidewalks.
- Cross streets at the corner, use crosswalks when possible and do not cross between parked cars.
  - Stop at all corners and stay together before crossing.
- Wear clothing that is bright, reflective and flame retardant.
- Avoid wearing long, baggy or loose costumes or oversized shoes (to prevent tripping).
- Remember to look left, right and left again before crossing the street.

Those wishing to volunteer for the annual Pumpkin Patrol can contact Tech. Sgt. Alijhondroe Wiley, 325th Security Forces Squadron NCO in charge of police services, at 283-2558.

(Courtesy of the 325 Security Forces Squadron)

#### FORCE SUSTAINMENT





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### Congratulations to Tyndall's newest NCO Academy graduates!

Robert Pisano 43rd AMU Stephen Booker 53rd WEG David Marquez 325th AMXS John Radke 325th MXS Matthew Dahlin 325th AMXS Holly Gaddy 325th MSS Kelly Baumgardner 325th AMXS Gregorio Pacheco 325th OG Steven Fox 325th AMXS Frank Lynch 325th MXS Daniel Abner 325th MXS Sean Kush 325th ACS Jennifer Clark 325th CS Samuel Spralls 325th MDG Steven Allen 325th MXS Michael Patterson 823rd RHS Kenneth Stull 325th AMXS Christopher Hagerman 325th MXS

# Wasting water drains Tyndall's money

2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

(Editor's note: This is the fourth in a four-part series highlighting how Tyndall personnel and residents can help conserve energy and help Tyndall avoid costly energy premiums.)

The world is more than two-thirds water, yet it still costs money to drink it, wash with it and flush it. This is no less true at Tyndall, even though many residents may not realize it since they don't pay for utilities.

Turning down hot water heater temperatures and reducing hot water usage in base housing is vitally important right now, as discussed in part one of this series (Oct. 7 issue of *Gulf Defender* "Energy reduction requires all Airmen," p. 1), but it's also important to get in the practice of conserving all water, said Gil Walker, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron energy and utilities manager.

Tyndall pays 90 cents per 1,000 gallons of running water and \$1.50 per 1,000 gallons of waste water, which is water that is flushed down a sink or toilet. If people run the faucets too long, or flush the toilets too much,

Tyndall will be forced to pay more for both the running and waste water.

Currently, Tyndall personnel and residents use approximately 833,000 gallons of waste water and 123,400 gallons of running water each day, said Mr. Walker. This costs Tyndall more than \$1 million each year.

Fortunately, there are measures everyone can take to conserve water.

First, verify the home is leak-free, because many buildings have hidden water leaks. Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. If a faucet drips at the rate of one drop per second, more than 2,700 gallons of water will be wasted per year.

Check for toilet tank leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear within 30 minutes. Look for worn out, corroded or bent parts. Flush after testing to avoid staining. If the toilet flush handle frequently sticks in the flush position, letting water run constantly, replace or adjust it. Also, avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects and other such waste in a trash container rather than in the toilet.

Taking shorter showers and shallow



Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

baths will help conserve water and reduce the load on hot water heaters, thus saving electricity and natural gas.

When adjusting water temperatures, instead of turning water flow up, try turning it down. If the water is too hot or cold, turn the offender down rather than increasing water flow to balance the temperature.

Instead of using running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods, defrost food overnight in the refrigerator or use the microwave.

For more information on how to conserve water, contact Mr. Walker at 283-4715.

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# **FOD** Finder of the Month



Senior Airman Michelle Brown, 325th Operations Support Squadron airfield management journeyman, fires a 6mm double-shot pistol launcher to scare away birds from Tyndall's flightline Monday. Airman Brown is the Foreign Object Debris Finder of the Month for September. She found approximately 18 feet of sealant loose on the runway after a possible-FOD report.



Stati Sgt. Berijamii i Nojek

# CONSTRUCTION

Phase I of the Sabre Gate project is currently underway and is expected to be completed by Nov. 18. While the construction is going one, the 325th Security Forces Squadron would like all motorists to remember the following construction zone safety tips:

- Stay alert and give full attention to the roadway.
- Pay close attention to all signs, traffic signs frequently change with construction.
- Turn on headlights so workers and other drivers can see your vehicle.
- Do not tailgate leave plenty of room for those sudden stops.
- Do not speed. Slow down to the posted speed limits.
  - Minimize distractions in vehicles.
- Keep an eye on security forces, workers and their equipment.
- Be patient. Remember work zones are necessary to improve roads and make them safer.
  - Remain calm and don't rush.
- A construction zone is a sign of improvements, not a personal inconvenience.



Tech. Sgt. Virginia Boak



Steve Wallace

Sergeant Boak receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Col. Brian Dickerson, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Sergeant Boak, 325th Operations Support Squadron. She audited more than 300 flight records prior to the Operational Readiness Inspection in June, with zero discrepancies found. She was one of seven people recognized by name by the Air Education and Training Command Inspector General team.

**Duty title:** Flight records NCO in charge **Time on station:** Seven years

Time in service: Seven years Hometown: Marinette, Wis.

Hobbies: Reading, working out and

watching movies

Favorite movie: "Primal Fear"
Favorite book: "Rich Dad, Poor Dad"
Favorite thing about Tyndall: The

people and the weather **Pet peeves:** Slackers

Goals: Finish my business degree Proudest moment in the military: Being recognized as an Operational Readiness Inspection outstanding performer

The Checkertail Salute is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize Tyndall's Warrior of the Week. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate, letter from the commander and a one-day pass.

The Gulf Defender is published for people like Airman Basic Robert Henning, 2nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit aerospace propulsion journeyman.





#### **FORCE TRAINING**



#### Training Spotlight

# What are you most looking forward to in your upcoming training?

"I am looking forward to my initial solo because that is something I've been working toward during my four-year flying career."



CAPT. BRIAN KNAUF
2nd Fighter Squadron B-Course student

# ABM students learn the 'scopes'

2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Less than two years ago, then-Senior Airman Adam Bentley was sitting behind a radar scope in Iraq conducting surveillance of the airspace. A Guardsman in the Utah Air National Guard at the time, he has since traded in his stripes for gold bars, and is now a student in a remarkably similar job.

The former surveillance technician is an air battle manager student in his second phase of training here. He and members of Class 06013 are learning to operate the ABM radar scopes for the first time.

To a new student, the equipment may look daunting. Rows and rows of buttons and switches surround a large square screen. Each button has multiple functions, and the tiny specs of light on the screen look like crawling insects.

According to Tech. Sgt. Penny Blackburn, 325th Air Control Squadron instructor, the scope training starts off slow, but students normally eatch on quick.

"On the first day of radar scope training, we assign each student a console," she said. "Each day we teach a new set of 'switch actions' and we just keep building upon previous lessons. By the seventh day, the students operate the equipment on their own, and that's when the instructors discover if the students have actually learned and retained the material."

The students don't control simulated or live aircraft during this time. Their job is



2nd Lt. William Powe

Second Lts. Mark Overman, right, and Nick Hatcher practice a switch configuration Tuesday during their first day at the radar scopes. The air battle manager students will eventually learn to use the scopes to identify and track potentially hostile aircraft and communicate with friendly pilots.

to just learn the basics, said Sergeant Blackburn.

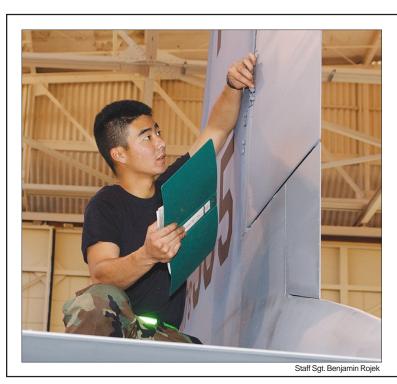
Many ABM students wait nearly a year here before they can begin their technical training at the schoolhouse. The anticipation makes most students excited to sit in front of the scopes for the first time. Fortunately for Lieutenant Bentley, he only had to wait a few weeks, but that didn't make him any less excited.

"I think it's going great so far, but it definitely looks like it will be a challenge as we

adapt to this computer system," said Lieutenant Bentley, who said he chose this career field for the challenge. "But our instructors are doing a great job training us. I'm sure they won't let anyone fall behind."

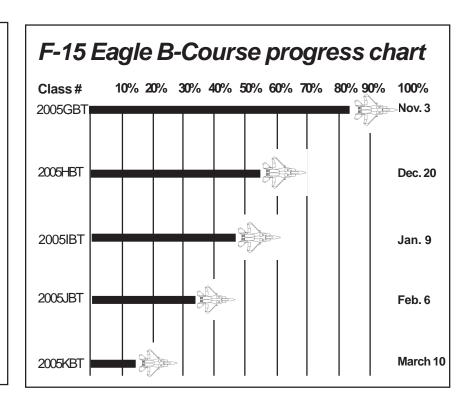
The lieutenant said it's important they learn everything they can about the job because air battle managers have a very important role in the Air Force.

"We help pilots do their job when they encounter hostile aircraft," he said. "We help keep them, and America, safe."



#### Rudder or not

Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Omori, 327nd Training Squadron/Detachment 4 Mission Ready Airmen student, inspects the left rudder of an F-15 Eagle as part of his basic post flight/preflight inspection checklist. Airman Omori was going over the checklists in preparation for a certification test Tuesday.





Staff Sgt. Charles Vaughn, left, and Airman 1st Class Vernon Walton help Staff Sgt. Denise Brown, who acts traumatized after a simulated vehicle accident and insurgent attack, during the Field Medical Unit Readiness Training exercise Oct. 15 here.

# Medic! Training teaches medics how

# to 'operate' in hostile areas

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A Tyndall Airman quickly took a position in the dirt and aimed his M-16 as a group of suspicious-looking men wear-

ing Middle-Eastern garments hid behind a bush, carrying AK-47 assault rifles. The Airman carefully kept the threatening men in his sights, ready to shoot if necessary.

"I'm just waiting for one to come out.



Airman 1st Class Michael Wladischkin protects his area of the base perimeter from potential 'terrorists.' The medics wore electronic devices on their vests that would beep if shot, even though the M-16s contained blanks.

I'm hoping to see some action," said Senior Airman Austin Weeks, 325th Medical Support Squadron, who normally works as a pharmacy technician.

However, the men left without incident and the Airman avoided a potentially deadly firefight, at least for a little while.

This may sound like a dangerous confrontation in Iraq or Afghanistan, but it actually took place a lot closer to home – here. Fortunately for both Airman Weeks and the potential terrorists, all parties were using blanks.

The good and "bad" guys were all members of the 325th Medical Group, who were participating in their biannual Field Medical Unit Readiness Training held Oct. 14 – 15 at Tyndall's Silver Flag site.

The event focused on training medics how to do more than what's written in their job description, especially in a deployed environment where supplies and personnel are limited. In addition to treat-

ing numerous simulated injuries and battle wounds, Airmen secured and defended their perimeter against near-constant attacks, received convoy training, conducted rescue missions, learned land navigation, and established a functioning base from scratch.

"The civil engineers are not always going to be there to set up the base," said Capt. John Lane, 325th MDG chief of readiness and the event coordinator. "And if you're assigned to a unit from another service branch, like the Army or Navy, they're going to expect you to pull your own weight."

Since many forward deployed locations have become joint service-operated areas, members of local U.S. Army and Navy installations were invited to help train the medics.

"We were there to teach the Airmen how to set up security around the base, because they don't normally do that," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher Boyer, a military police officer assigned to the Naval Support Activity, Panama City. "But the fun part was the second day when

we tested them all day by shooting at them and trying to steal their vehicles."

Gunfire could be heard throughout the second day as the trainers, dressed in Middle-Eastern head garments, frequently attacked the Airmen patrolling the base's perimeter and

those who ventured outside of the base's security to rescue injured people.

The gun battles were designed to show the medics that they may be realistically called upon to defend themselves, or their patients, if attacked, said Captain Lane.

"The days of medics being non-combat-



Capt. Karen Kramer, left, and Staff Sgt. Jamilah Nailor he obstacle course Oct. 14. The red smoke acted as a chem their gas masks and get the 'downed pilot' to safety. Hal training exercise at Tyndall's Silver Flag site. The group

ants are pretty much over," he said. "When any of these medics deploy, they will deploy with at least one weapon, if not two. That's why this training is so

important. Not only will these medics know how to do their job, but they'll also know how to survive."

However, medics in combat don't go out looking for a fight, the fight finds them, said Lt. Col. Doug Howard, 325th Medical Operations Squad-

ron commander, and added combat limitations set forth by the Geneva Conventions still apply to medics.

"Medics have always carried some sort of weapon, so that hasn't changed, but the environment and how we fight has changed since (Operation) Desert Storm," he said. "(The U.S. military) fights in much smaller forces, but farther forward. We fight in hot spots without clear lines. Surgeons are on the frontlines and medics are riding in convoys. (Everyone) has to know how to defend and protect themselves."

Air Force medics are frequently tasked to support Army and Marine Corps combat missions, so learning how to effectively communicate with the other services is also extremely important, Captain Lane said.

"Part of this training was meant to overcome the different terminology and language barriers between the services," Captain Lane said. "This will help reduce the lag time when we need to get things done."

Army Major Chris Colacicco, a UH-1 Victor helicopter pilot, agreed. He and his flight crew from Fort Rucker, Ala., gave the Airmen air evacuation training.

"This kind of joint training is extremely important because we know what we can expect from the Air Force, and the Air Force knows what they can expect from us," said Major Colacicco, who participated in Tyndall's exercise once before.

The joint-service participation and the advanced combat training ended up making this exercise one of the best ever, said Tech. Sgt. Rory Darby, 325th MDG expeditionary medical operations NCO in charge.

"I've done this twice a year for five years and it keeps getting better and better," he said. "And this year's was the best yet."

Captain Lane said he was also pleased with how well the group did.

"We put war-time stressors on people and I believe everyone did exceptionally well," the captain said. "Everyone should feel more confident as both medics and Air Force warriors."



(From left) Staff Sgt. Alexander Mosquera, Captain Kramer, Tech. Sgt. Carlos Martinez and U.S. Army medic Spc. Robert Smith help off-load a patient with simulated injuries Oct. 15. The Soldiers trained the Airmen in air evacuation techniques.



Tech. Sgt. Michael Malone learns to find an azimuth reading with a compass during navigational training Oct. 14. The medics had to learn how to use a compass to find a downed pilot.



elp carry a litter with a 150-pound mannequin through an nical agent explosion, and the Airmen had to quickly don if of the 325th Medical Group participated in the biannual is scheduled to conduct the training again in April.

#### **Briefs**

#### **RAO** volunteers

The Retiree Activities Office is seeking volunteers to assist with the various tasks associated with running the office. The RAO is an all-volunteer organization that provides assistance and information to Tyndall's retiree community on retiree-related issues. Those interested in volunteering should contact the office by e-mail at tyndall.RAO@tyndall.af.mil or call 283-2737.

#### **AADD** volunteers

Airmen Against Drunk Driving is looking for volunteers. The hours of operations are 5 p.m. to 5 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Volunteers must be E-1s through E-4s. Those interested in volunteering can call 867-0220, or e-mail Airman 1st Class Brandon Krueger at brandon.krueger@tyndall.af.mil.

#### Lifeguards needed

The 325th Services Squadron's Outdoor Recreation office is compiling a list of possible candidates to be lifeguards for the upcoming season. Anyone who is currently certified or interested in becoming certified can contact Cindy Workman at 283-3199, or by email cindy.workman@tyndall.af.mil.

#### **Red Ribbon Week**

Tyndall is hosting a Red Ribbon Week fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday in the Base Exchange parking lot here. There will be face painting, a K-9 demonstration, law enforcement vehicles and live music, as well as prizes and games. For more information, call 283-2558.

#### SBP briefing

The Survivor Benefit Plan is often misunderstood and undervalued by servicemembers. An SBP counselor will schedule those about to retire for a pre-retirement briefing, well before the retirement date. In addition to the briefing, various handouts are available to assist with making decisions. For more information, call Tyndall's SBP counselor, Alicia Gibbons, at 283-8392.

#### **Family Tradition Night**

In commemoration of Military Family Month, the Family Support Center is holding a Family Tradition Night 5:30-





Lisa Norman

#### **Pretty pumpkin**

Linda Nicolas, left, Kate Bobb and Alicia Foshee decorate a pumpkin during the Officers' Spouses' Club Halloween Luncheon Oct. 18 at the Officers' Club. The OSC and the Enlisted Spouses' Club will hold a combined game night at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 15 at the O'Club. For more information contact Michelle Ritsema at 286-5613.

7:30 p.m. Nov. 17 at the FSC classroom Tricare briefing in Bldg. 743. There will be free pizza and a discussion on the importance of family traditions. For more information, call 283-4204.

#### **Smooth Move workshop**

The next Smooth Move Workshop will take place from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 9 at the Family Support Center classroom. All military, DOD civilians and family members are invited. Experts from legal, finance, transportation management, family advocacy, billeting, housing and Tricare, as well as the Family Support Center will be there to answer questions. Call 283-4204/4205 to make reservations.

#### Military Family Employment Specialist

A Military Family Employment Specialist will be available at the Family Support Center 8:30–11:30 a.m. every Wednesday. The employment specialist is available to assist military spouses with job placement and referral for positions in the Panama City area and to register spouses in the workforce employment system. For more information or to make an appointment, call the FSC at 283-4204.

#### **GCCC** placement test

The Gulf Coast Community College Tyndall Center is administering a placement test at 1 p.m. Wednesday. They are also sponsoring a Study Skills Workshop from 5-6 p.m. Thursday in Room 58 at the Education Center. For more information, call 283-4332.

A Tricare benefit briefing will be held from 6-8 p.m. Nov. 15 at the Gulf Beach Baptist Church located on Hutchison Boulevard in Panama City Beach. Health care information will be provided for all categories of Tricare beneficiaries. For more information, call the 325th Medical Group's Tricare Operations office at 283-7331.

#### **Commissary hours**

The Tyndall Commissary will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 11 for Veterans Day. For the Thanksgiving holiday, the hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 21, closed Nov. 24 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 25. For more information, call 283-4825.

#### Airman's Attic

Family Services and the Airman's Attic are open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Friday in Bldg. 747. Call the Family Services office at 283-4913 for more information.

#### Thrift Shop hours

The Thrift Shop will be open from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 5. It will be closed Nov. 11 due to Veterans Day and Nov. 23-25 due to Thanksgiving.

Normal operating hours are 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, with consignments from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Thrift Shop is located in Bldg. 743 on Suwannee Drive across from the Base Post Office. For more information, call 286-5888.



#### Catholic services

Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m. Monday-Friday, Chapel Two Reconciliation, before Saturday Mass or by appointment Saturday Mass, 5 p.m., Chapel Two Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m., Chapel Two Religious Education, 11 a.m., Bldg. 1476

#### **Protestant services**

Traditional worship service, 9:30 a.m., Chapel One Contemporary worship service, 11 a.m., Chapel Two Wednesday Fellowship, 5 p.m., Chapel Two

#### Muslim services

Dhuhr Prayer, Monday-Thursday, Spiritual Maintenance building near the flightline Jumauh services, 12:30 p.m. the second and fourth Friday of each month, Spiritual Maintenance building near flightline

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#### What a rush

David Harrell, center, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron quarterback, attempts to pass between Brian Henshaw, left, and Brandon Hollman, both with 325th Maintenance Squadron, during the first game of the Tyndall Intramural Football playoffs Tuesday. 325th MXS went on to win the game 35-28.

# CONS drafts winning list

PIGSKIN PROGNOSTICATOR

From the first president's state

Last minute victories, players carted off the field with injuries and the fall of Saints.

No, I'm not talking about Gladiator II (wrong Colosseum). That was Week 7 of a very exciting NFL season. We're seeing once revered teams fall, mocked teams rise and a slew of injuries – all of which is making it hard to pick who will win and lose each week.

Even though it was obvious the Colts would trample Houston and Washington would take down the Niners, I was surprised to see Philadelphia's special teams step up and create a win. A 65yard touchdown run after blocking a field goal in the fourth quarter? Now that's the kind of football that keeps you glued to your recliner.

Tyndall's pickers have also seen their share of upsets. Take a look at 325th OSS for example. They went from first place to 16th in just two weeks.

I asked Scott Reed, 325th OSS' first sergeant, if there was any way they could return from such a huge deficit.

"The answer is yes," he said. "A minor setback will never stop a 'Silver Knight,' and when everything is said and done, we know we will be on top."

On top this week, though, was 325th CONS. They came out with an impressive 11 correct picks – guesses as it were. With that kind of score, I wanted to know which game they would be watching out for this week.

"The toughest pick of the week is Kansas City at San Diego," said Brent Goe, 325th CONS picker. "The Chargers are far better than their 3-4 record, and we all know the Chiefs can light up the scoreboard in a hurry."

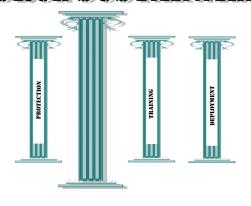
Goe is with the majority in picking San Diego to win this one, but he also picked Houston to win. I'm so sure the Texans will lose, that I put a challenge before Goe: If Houston wins, I'll write a poem about how great the Texans are. If they lose, he gets to write the flowery football poem.

Now, let's get out there and watch some football!

### **Prognosticator** scorebox

leam	week /	Total
PIG-PROC	8	54
325th MOS	10	63
325th AMXS	10	61
First Sgts.	9	61
325th SVS	9	61
325th CONS	3 11	58
325th ACS	8	58
2nd FS	9	57
325th MDOS	8 8	57
325th CS	8	56
325th CPTS	8	54
53rd WEG	9	53
325th MSS	8	52
823rd RHS	8	50
325th CES	7	50
325th MXS	8	47
325th OSS	2	47
NCOA	5	43
325th SFS	8	42
325th OG	7	42
AFRL	0	30

#### **FORCE SUSTAINMENT**



#### **Intramural Sports Standings**

#### Football

Ar	neric	an	Na	tiona	I
Team MXS 42nd AMU 83rd FWS OSS 1st AMU CPTS AFCESA 53rd WEG	W 6 5 5 4 3 2 2	L 1 2 2 3 4 5 5	Team ACS SFS TEST CES COMM 601st EAOG SVS MDG CONS	W 8 7 6 5 4 2 2 1	L 0 1 2 3 4 6 7 7
			, 000	•	•

#### **Bowling**

Team	W	<u>L</u>	<u>Team</u>	W	L
MXS-Phase	62	18	AMXS	40	40
SFS	56	24	1st FS	40	40
CS 1	52	28	MSS 2	38	42
MSS 1	50	30	ACS 2	38	42
601st EAOG 1	48	32	AFCESA	38	42
MOS	47	33	MXS-AMMO	38	42
83rd FWS 1	46	34	RHS	36	44
83rd FWS 2	46	34	MDG	34	46
MXS 1	46	34	1st AMU 1	34	46
601st EAOG 2	44	36	CONS	33	47
1st AMU 3	42	37	NCOA	32	48
IAM	42	38	1st AMU 2	30	50
ACS 1	42	38	CS 2	30	50
53rd WEG	40	40	CES	30	50
Test	40	40	SVS	29	51
OSS	40	40	AAFES	16	64

#### Pig-Prog vs. 325th OSS

Baltimore @ Pittsburgh - 45 points 34 points	Arizona @ Dallas Chicago @ Detroit Cleveland @ Houston Green Bay @ Cincinnati Jacksonville @ St. Louis Minnesota @ Carolina Oakland @ Tennessee Washington @ N.Y. Giants Kansas City @ San Diego Miami @ New Orleans Philadelphia @ Denver Tampa Bay @ San Francisco Buffalo @ New England	Dallas Chicago Cleveland Cincinnati Jacksonville Carolina Tennessee N.Y. Giants San Diego Miami Denver Tampa Bay New England
	Buffalo @ New England	New England

325th SVS beat the Pig-Prog in a down-to-thewire Week 7 match-up. I guess I got served.

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# Band of brothers: Tyndall musicians bring 'brass' to base ceremonies

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN ROJEK

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Confucius once said, "Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without."

The 325th Air Control Squadron realized this also applies to squadron ceremonies, and thus the ACS Brass Band was formed.

The band, which began in 2003 with four trombonists, now consists of four trombonists, two trumpeters and one drummer. They play at 325th ACS air battle manager student graduations, and recently have performed at the 325th Operations Group change of command ceremony. They have also been asked to play wing stand-up the first week of December.

"We exist to play the Star Spangled Banner," said Maj. John Evans, 325th ACS. "We don't play marches or other arrangements without playing that song."

Even though the Star Spangled Banner is the Brass Band's bread and butter, they all know a bit about playing other arrangements. Each member of the band has experienced playing with groups in one way or another. The band members, all from 325th ACS, include Major Evans, Maj. Raymond Law, Capt. Chris Comer, Capt. Ed Keller, 2nd Lt. Steven Vega, 2nd Lt. Joe Farone, and Airman 1st Class Brandon Schessl.

Major Law has been playing the trombone since 1968. He had played the trumpet as a child, but in his freshman year in high school in Phoenix, he picked up the instrument he'd be playing for the next 37 years.

"I played in high school and at North Arizona University at Flagstaff," said Major Law. "My trombone collected dust for a few years, but when I got stationed at Tinker AFB, Okla., I started playing



Courtesy photo

The ACS Brass Band plays at the 325th Operations Group change of command ceremony recently. The band members are, from left, Maj. John Evans, Capt. Lee Wilstead, Maj. Raymond Law, 2nd Lt. Steven Vega, Capt. Chris Comer, and Airman 1st Class Brandon Schessl.

in a swing band and in my church's praise and worship band. When I got here, I was looking for a group that I could play music with."

The sole enlisted member of the band, Airman Schessl hasn't been playing the trumpet for almost four decades, but in 13 years he has gained plenty of experience.

"My dad was a music teacher, so I've been playing since third grade," said Airman Schessl, who joined the band one year ago. "I've been in all-county and all-state bands, and I played for the Sandborn Fire Company Band in New York. I thought I was done playing until I came here."

Major Evans has never been done playing since he started 40 years ago. He graduated from Tennessee Technological University as a music educator and was a band director for five years. The major, who started the Brass Band, creates the band's arrangements, keeping with a patriotic, ceremonial theme.

"We're interested in keeping alive the ceremonies of the Air Force," he said. "Many military functions do not have traditional music. We're trying to inject that back into the ceremonies – marches and patriotic music.

"We feel that we're doing something important, and thankfully our commander, Lt. Col. Dennis McDevitt Jr., has really supported us," the major continued. "Hopefully, when the students get to see and be a part of these traditions, they'll bring them back when they go out into the Air Force."

The band, however, is not just for air battle manager students, nor does Major Evans only want it made up of 325th ACS Airmen.

"We invite anyone who is a fairly confident player of a brass instrument to come out and play with us," he said. "We'll even take the French horn."

Anyone interested in playing with the ACS Brass Band can contact Major Evans at 283-2955.

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# Tyndall hosts Red Ribbon Week activities

Master Sgt. Mary McHale

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Red Ribbon Week continues Saturday with a variety of activities and events from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Base Exchange parking lot.

The week, held annually, began Sunday and ends Monday and is a "drug awareness event celebrating a drug free lifestyle," according to Brenda Brown, Tyndall's Drug Demand Reduction Program manager.

She said the free event will feature fingerprinting for children courtesy of the Bay County Sheriff's Office, games and prizes, face painting, static displays, live music and a K-9 demonstration.

"Red Ribbon Week came about as the result of the tragic murder of a Federal Drug Enforcement Agent, Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, while he was investigating Mexican drug traffickers," she said. "His death became a catalyst for action."

She added that the ribbon is red to symbolize his blood that was shed in the service of others.

This year's theme is "Real Heroes

Don't Use Drugs" and included a variety of activities and visits to the Child Development Center and Youth Center by McGruff the Crime Dog. Mrs. Brown said the children also received "goody bags" filled with anti-drug materials such as a coloring book, pencils and stickers.

Additionally, the Youth Center is hosting a T-shirt contest with an anti-drug theme. The winner, to be chosen today, will receive a stuffed "Pledge Puppy" with the message, "Just Like Me, Pledge to be Drug Free." The puppy also has signatures of several Tyndall commanders.

During McGruff's visit at the Youth Center Monday, Kelsey Gronbeck, 8, described what Red Ribbon Week meant to her.



McGruff the Crime Dog speaks with Faith Flawn Monday during a visit to the Youth Center. McGruff was visiting the center as part of Red Ribbon Week activities.

> "Red Ribbon Week is when everyone wears a ribbon to tell people not to do drugs," she said. "The ribbon says 'I'm too cool for drugs.""

> Mrs. Brown said her program, along with a variety of other base agencies, are eager to reach individuals with the anti-drug use message.

> "Red Ribbon Week provides us with an opportunity to renew our commitment to healthy and drug-free lifestyle and show dedication to education and prevention efforts in our schools and communities," she said. "We invite everyone to come out and join us in our effort to keep youth drug-free and deliver the zerotolerance message associated with the Air Force."

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# -unshine N



www.325thservices.com

www.325thservices.com

#### Got money?

Earn \$5 toward a squadron party at the club with each new member that signs up.

#### Now thru Nov. 30

Free first year membership dues to E1-E4.

Free first year membership dues to 01.

Get in on the action...

#### IMON NIOK

2005 Tyndall Youth **Basketball Registration** Now thru Nov. 15 ages 5-15

Call 283-4366 for info.

#### Free Movie Nites Tonight at the Pizza

#### Pub 8 p.m. **Sky High-**(Rated PG)

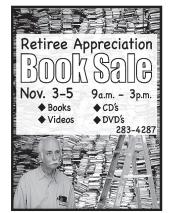
When you're the son of

the world's most legendary superheroes The Commander and Jetstream, there is only one school for you - Sky High, an elite high school that is entrusted with molding tomorrow's superheroes.

Movies are subject to change.

#### Thursday at the E'Club 6 p.m. Charlie and the Chocolate **Factory** - (Rated G)

Charlie Bucket, a boy from an impoverished family under the shadow of a gaint chocolate factory, wins a candy bar contest and is given a tour, along with four other children, of the amazing factory run by the eccentric Willy Wonka and his staff of Oompa-Loompas.











Club Membership Drive Grand Giveaway **Super Membership Night Nov. 4** 

#### at the Gong Show!

\$5.00 in Club Bucks to any new member that joins during these events, plus no door charge

\*Each squadron will be given \$5.00 in Club Bucks for each new member that signs up during the drive\*

\*Free first years membership dues to E1-E4\*

Free first years membership dues to O1 ★ **★** HQ AETC will draw for six \$1,000 credit on their account for new members



**ESERVICES** 

### Attention Team Tyndall: Place a free classified ad in the Gulf Defender

Military classified ads are placed in the Gulf Defender on a space available basis. Ads must be for a one-time sale of personal goods and should include a complete description, 30 words or less, of item being sold. Forms must be turned in by 2 p.m. Thursday for publication in the following Friday's Gulf Defender. Completed forms can be dropped off or mailed to the 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office at 445 Suwannee Rd. Ste. 129 Tyndall AFB, FL 32403, or faxed to (850) 283-3225. Ads can also be sent in by e-mail to checkertailmarket@tyndall.af.mil.

Rank/Name	
Unit/Office Symbol	
Duty Phone	
Home Phone	

Item description (One ad per form) (30 words or less)

### We value your opinion!

Take a couple of minutes to give us your thoughts on how we can make the Gulf Defender better:

Did the front page grab your attention? Yes □ No □

Do you feel there is a good mix of local, command and Air Force-level news? Yes □ No □

Do the photos encourage you to read accompanied articles?

Yes □ No □

Is the Gulf Defender easy to read and follow?

Yes □ No □

What did you find most interesting in this week's paper?\_

If you could change one thing in the paper, what would it be?

Comments:

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### TFEs support troops across globe

DALLAS – While the parched deserts of Iraq initially seem to have nothing in common with the hurricane stricken U.S. Gulf Coast, one Army & Air Force Exchange Service mobile base exchange is meeting the needs of troops and their families in both locations.

A Tactical Field Exchange, the mobile equivalent of a stationary PX/BX found on an Army or Air Force installation, is a 40 to 53 foot trailer that has been converted into a mobile retail store to support contingency deployments. Military operations in Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia and Kosovo validated the need for this quality of life support to deployed servicemembers, as did the most recent hurricane relief

operations for Joint Task Forces Katrina and Rita. Once the TFE arrives on site, receives merchandise and sets up, usually done within 24 hours, the unit is open for business around the clock, as long as needed.

AAFES maintains a fleet of TFEs for use in support of training exercises, war zones and natural disasters. The TFEs in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi are similar to those serving troops in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan.

"While personal sacrifices and inconveniences are a way of life for troops, TFE support plays a significant role in enhancing morale, readiness and mission effectiveness," said AAFES Commander, Maj. Gen. Bill

"Whether troops are in the desert a world away or serving knee deep in water in the Gulf Coast, TFEs make it possible for AAFES to provide support in almost every corner of the globe."

TFEs carry a basic stock assortment that includes water, personal care items, basic clothing items, snacks, soft drinks and entertainment.

"TFEs help AAFES accomplish its motto 'We Go Where You Go,'" said Maj. Gen. Essex. "Whether soldiering in the sweltering Iraqi heat or surrounded by the wreckage of Mother Nature's fury, everyone tries to take a break from the chaos for a bit of comfort and normalcy inside the AAFES TFE."

# Proper generator operation prevents power hazards

SENIOR MASTER SGT. RICHARD PECK

Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency

This years' hurricane season has resulted in numerous and extended power outages. Many residents have responded by purchasing portable generators, but unfortunately they were unaware of procedures to safely operate them. Anyone who may have a portable generator or is thinking of purchasing one should take some precautions to protect himself and his family.

First, understand the generators' limitations. Owners often believe that a small portable generator will support all the loads in their home including air conditioning, ovens, etc., when in fact most small portable generators will only provide

power to a few lights, refrigerator, fan, and/ or microwave. Overloading the generator may damage it beyond repair. Owners should consult the manufacturer's recommendations for the size of load the generator can safely handle or consult with a local generator distributor.

Second, after purchasing a generator, thoroughly read and understand the manufacturer's operating and safety instructions *before* operating the generator.

Third, perform an inspection of the generator in accordance with the manufacturers' inspections. As a minimum, check the outlet receptacles for any obvious loose or damaged parts. Also, ensure the fuel lines and fuel tank has no damage or leaks.

Fourth, use a heavy duty groundedthree-prong extension cord plugged into the generator receptacle and the item to be powered, such as a lamp or a refrigerator. Use of extension cords with built-in ground fault circuit interrupters will provide an extra level of protection.

Do not connect the generator to any existing house wiring without approval of a local building department. This practice is often called "backfeeding" and is both a

safety hazard and prohibited unless special equipment is installed. Consult with a licensed and qualified electrician if necessary.

Fifth, when operating the generator, make sure to position it away from doors and windows to prevent dan-

gerous carbon monoxide gas from entering the house. Position the generator outside a garage or away from the house and route extension cords through the smallest possible opening. Never operate the generator inside any part of the home to include the garage. Those planning to route extension cords through a window must keep the generator as far away as possible and use plastic and tape to seal around the window.

Finally, never refuel the generator when it is running. Shut it down and wait at least 15 minutes for it to cool before refueling. Be sure to clean up any fuel spills prior to restarting the generator and do not store extra gas containers near the generator.





